DOCKET NO.: IVOO-0140
Application No.: 09/675,025
Office Action Dated: September 14, 2005

PATENT
REPLY FILED UNDER EXPEDITED
PROCEDURE PURSUANT TO
37 CFR § 1.116

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-133 (canceled)

134.   (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

transmitting a plurality of video programs to a plurality of consumer locations;

transmitting classification information in a header of at least some of the plurality of video programs transmitted;

providing a mechanism to compare the classification information to preference information of a consumer location; and

providing a mechanism to automatically select video programs from the plurality of video programs having a defined degree of similarity between the classification information and the preference information; and

providing a mechanism to automatically overwrite stored digital data content with the automatically selected video programs according to a defined criteria.

135.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 134 further comprising:

billing a consumer location within the plurality of consumer locations once a video program has been selected for viewing that has been previously automatically selected for recording based upon preference information and then recorded at the consumer location.

136.   (Cancelled).

137.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 134, wherein the defined criteria is that oldest stored video programs are overwritten with the automatically selected video programs.

138.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 134, wherein the defined criteria is that older releases of stored video programs are overwritten with the automatically selected video programs.

DOCKET NO.: IVOO-0140
Application No.: 09/675,025
Office Action Dated: September 14, 2005

PATENT
REPLY FILED UNDER EXPEDITED
PROCEDURE PURSUANT TO
37 CFR § 1.116

139.   (Previously Presented The method of claim 134, wherein the defined criteria is that stored digital data content which least fits a preference of the consumer location is overwritten with the automatically selected video programs.

140.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 134 wherein the ~~pre-recorded~~ automatically select video programs are ~~video program is~~ recorded on a removable and portable storage medium.

141.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 134, further comprising: encoding the transmitted video programs with data permitting playback only on a playback device with compatible decoder.

142.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 141 further comprising: encoding the transmitted video programs with time-based code keys A.

143.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 142 wherein the time-based code keys A encoded into the transmitted video programs are correlated with periodic time-based key codes B that are blanket transmitted to the plurality of consumer locations and time-based codes C that are provided to consumer locations within the plurality of consumer locations that are in good standing, wherein a customer can only view a video program if all three codes keys A, B and C have been received.

144.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~145~~ 143 further comprising: communicating video program playback information from each consumer location to a central controller system when the time-based codes C are provided.

145.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 134 wherein the act of transmitting a plurality of video programs is carried out by direct broadcast satellite transmission on multiple channels in compressed-time format.

146.   (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium having computer-executable instructions stored thereon for performing the method of claim 134.

DOCKET NO.: IVOO-0140
Application No.: 09/675,025
Office Action Dated: September 14, 2005

PATENT
REPLY FILED UNDER EXPEDITED
PROCEDURE PURSUANT TO
37 CFR § 1.116

147.   (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium having computer-executable instructions stored thereon for performing the method of claim 135.

148.   (Cancelled).

149.   (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium having computer-executable instructions stored thereon for performing the method of claim 137.

150.   (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium having computer-executable instructions stored thereon for performing the method of claim 138.

151.   (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium having computer-executable instructions stored thereon for performing the method of claim 139.

152.   (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium having computer-executable instructions stored thereon for performing the method of claim 140.

153.   (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium having computer-executable instructions stored thereon for performing the method of claim 141.

154.   (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium having computer-executable instructions stored thereon for performing the method of claim 142.

155.   (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium having computer-executable instructions stored thereon for performing the method of claim 143.

156.   (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium having computer-executable instructions stored thereon for performing the method of claim 144.

157.   (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium having computer-executable instructions stored thereon for performing the method of claim 145.

158.   (Currently Amended) A device comprising:

a receiving mechanism configured to receive a plurality of video programs transmitted together wherein there is classification information in a header of at least some of the plurality of video programs transmitted;

a comparing mechanism configured to compare the classification information to preference information of a consumer location;

a selection mechanism configured to automatically select video programs from the plurality of transmitted video programs having a defined degree of similarity between the classification information and the preference information; and

a recording mechanism configured to record the automatically selected video programs based on the preference information; and

an automatic overwriting mechanism to automatically overwrite stored digital data content with the automatically selected video programs according to a defined criteria.

159.   (Previously Presented) The device of claim 158 wherein the recording mechanism is configured to record the automatically selected video programs on a removable and portable storage medium.

160.   (Previously Presented) The device of claim 158 further comprising:

a playback mechanism configured to playback automatically selected video programs upon selection for playback by a user; and

a billing mechanism in communication with the playback mechanism configured to transmit billing information to a central billing system accounting for each time the automatically selected video program has been selected for playback.

161.   (Previously Presented) The device of claim 158 further comprising:

a control mechanism in communication with the receiving mechanism configured to verify a received combination of time-based code keys for authorizing play-back of said transmitted video programs at a desired time, and enabling said playback.

DOCKET NO.: IVOO-0140
Application No.: 09/675,025
Office Action Dated: September 14, 2005

PATENT
REPLY FILED UNDER EXPEDITED
PROCEDURE PURSUANT TO
37 CFR § 1.116

162.   (Previously Presented) The device of claim 161 further comprising:

a decoding mechanism in communication with the control mechanism configured to decode transmitted video programs wherein time-based code keys A that are encoded into the transmitted video programs are correlated with periodic time-based key codes B that are blanket transmitted to a plurality of consumer locations and time-based codes C that are provided to consumer locations within the plurality of consumer locations that are in good standing such that a consumer can only view a video program if all three codes keys A, B and C have been received by the playback device.

163.   (Previously Presented) The device of claim 162 wherein the billing mechanism comprises:

a mechanism configured to communicate an identity of said previously selected video program and a unique identifying address associated with said consumer to said central billing system upon initiating play-back of the previously selected video program; and

a playback-enabling mechanism configured to receive from said central billing system the third time-based code key for identifying a status of said consumer to enable said play-back of said previously selected video program.

164.   (Previously Presented) The device of claim 158, further comprising providing a mechanism to automatically overwrite stored digital data content with the automatically selected video programs according to a defined criteria.

165.   (Previously Presented) The device of claim 164, wherein the defined criteria is that oldest stored video programs are overwritten with the automatically selected video programs.

166.   (Previously Presented) The device of claim 164, wherein the defined criteria is that older releases of stored video programs are overwritten with the automatically selected video programs.

167.   (Previously Presented) The device of claim 164, wherein the defined criteria is that stored digital data content which least fits a preference of the consumer location is overwritten with the automatically selected video programs.

168.   (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

receiving a plurality of video programs at a consumer location;

receiving classification information in a header of at least some of the plurality of video programs received;

comparing the classification information to preference information of the consumer location; ~~and~~

automatically selecting video programs from the plurality of video programs having a defined degree of similarity between the classification information and the preference information; and

automatically overwriting stored digital data content with the automatically selected video programs according to a defined criteria.

169.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 168 further comprising:

receiving a bill once a video program has been selected for viewing that has been previously automatically selected for recording based upon preference information and then recorded at the consumer location.

170.   (Cancelled)

171.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 168, wherein the defined criteria is that oldest stored video programs are overwritten with the automatically selected video programs.

172.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 168, wherein the defined criteria is that older releases of stored video programs are overwritten with the automatically selected video programs.

173.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 168, wherein the defined criteria is that stored digital data content which least fits a preference of the consumer location is overwritten with the automatically selected video programs.

174.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 168 wherein the pre-recorded video program is recorded on a removable and portable storage medium.

DOCKET NO.: IVOO-0140
Application No.: 09/675,025
Office Action Dated: September 14, 2005

. PATENT
REPLY FILED UNDER EXPEDITED
PROCEDURE PURSUANT TO
37 CFR § 1.116

175.   (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

a mechanism configured to transmit a plurality of video programs to a plurality of consumer locations;

a mechanism configured to transmit classification information in a header of at least some of the plurality of video programs transmitted;

a mechanism configured to compare the classification information to preference information of a consumer location; and

a mechanism configured to automatically select video programs from the plurality of video programs having a defined degree of similarity between ~~the~~ classification information and ~~the~~ preference information, and

a mechanism configured to automatically overwrite stored digital data content with the automatically selected video programs according to a defined criteria.

176.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 175 further comprising:

a billing mechanism configured to bill a consumer location within the plurality of consumer locations once a video program has been selected for viewing that has been previously automatically selected for recording based upon preference information and then recorded at the consumer location.

177.   (Cancelled).